

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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Action

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Control: 19369  
Rec'dApril 28, 1962  
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Info

FROM: BONN

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TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 2583, APRIL 28

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FOLLOWING IS SUBSTANCE OF DPA ACCOUNT OF INTERVIEW WITH BRENTANO APRIL 27 SHORTLY BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON FOR CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT KENNEDY APRIL 30.

BRENTANO HOPED TO HAVE FRANK TALK WITH PRESIDENT ON BERLIN AND GERMAN QUESTION. HE SAID COOPERATION WITH USA REMAINS ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF FRG POLICY. AT SAME TIME HE WANTED TO NOTE THAT CO-OPERATION PRE-SUPPOSED FRANK DISCUSSION. IT WAS FOOLISHNESS TO SAY HE DISTRUSTED US POLICY. HE ALWAYS HAS SAID FRG MUST STAND WITH US. THERE WAS NO ALTERNATIVE.

HE HAD NO GOVERNMENTAL INSTRUCTIONS OR SPECIAL MISSION IN WASHINGTON HOWEVER, IDEA THAT HE SHOULD TALK WITH PRESIDENT HAD FULL GOVERNMENTAL APPROVAL, PARTICULARLY OF CHANCELLOR WHO CONSIDERED IT URGENTLY NECESSARY.

HE THOUGHT IT DESIRABLE BUNDESTAG DEBATE BERLIN AND GERMAN POLICY. PUBLIC HAS RIGHT TO KNOW WHERE PARTIES STAND ON MATTERS CONCERNING WHICH DIFFICULT DECISIONS HAVE SOON TO BE MADE. THIS DID NOT MEAN BUNDESTAG SHOULD MAKE FOREIGN POLICY. BUT BUNDESTAG WOULD NOT FULFILL ITS RESPONSIBILITY IF IT DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN DEALING WITH MATTERS AFFECTING FUTURE OF GERMANY AND WESTERN WORLD. ACCORDING TO BRENTANO'S INFORMATION AMERICANS HAD NOT FINAL POSITION FOR TALKS ON BERLIN. STILL OPPORTUNITY FOR DISCUSSION AMONG ALLIES AT ATHENS NATO MEETING.

BRENTANO SAID TIME HAD PASSED WHEN ONE COULD HOLD HIM RESPONSIBLE FOR ALLEGED LEAKS. HE THOUGHT IT UNFORTUNATE THAT EXTENSIVE AND PARTLY BADLY INFORMED DISCUSSION OVER CERTAIN US IDEAS HAS TAKEN PLACE. BUT ONCE PROBLEMS HAD BEEN OPENLY RAISED, THEY COULD NOT

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-2- 2583, APRIL 28; FROM BOWEN

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BE AVOIDED. BRENTANO OUTLINED OWN POSITION AS FOLLOWS:

CDU/CSU HAD ALWAYS FAVORED EAST-WEST NEGOTIATIONS. FRG AGREED THAT US IN CONJUNCTION WITH ALLIES SHOULD CONDUCT TALKS WITH SOVIETS. AT EVERY PHASE OF NEGOTIATIONS FRG MUST POINT OUT THAT CERTAIN GOALS OF COMMON POLICY MUST NOT BE AFFECTED. THUS, A MODUS VIVENDI FOR BERLIN MUST NOT BE OPEN TO INTERPRETATIONS GERMAN QUESTION HAD BEEN FORGOTTEN.

BRENTANO GAVE FIVE POINTS:

1. THERE MUST BE NO POLITICAL DECISION ON BERLIN WHICH UPGRADES GDR AND MEETS SOVIET THESIS OF TWO GERMAN STATES.
2. BERLIN IS PART OF FREE GERMANY AND NOT A SEPARATE POLITICAL ENTITY. IT MUST BE VIABLE, HAVE MILITARY PROTECTION OF ALLIES AND BE ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY CONNECTED WITH FRG.
3. PLAN TO HAVE COMMISSIONS FOR CONTACTS BETWEEN FRG AND GDR HAS LITTLE TO DO WITH BERLIN QUESTION. INCORRECT THAT GENEVA PEACE PLAN OF 1959 ALREADY APPROVED SUCH COMMISSIONS. AT GENEVA FORMATION SUCH COMMISSIONS LINKED WITH DEFINITE STEPS TOWARDS REUNIFICATION.
4. ATOMIC ARMAMENT OF NATO UNITS AND THE IDEA OF EUROPEAN SECURITY SYSTEMS HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH BERLIN SOLUTION. THEY COULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED IN CONNECTION WITH SOLUTION OF GERMAN QUESTION.
5. FRG HAD CLEARLY STATED IT WOULD NOT RESORT TO FORCE TO ACHIEVE REUNIFICATION. RECOGNITION OF SO-CALLED DEMARCATION LINES BEYOND PREVIOUS STATEMENTS WOULD BE SUPERFLUOUS.

DOWLING

JTC

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